,(d) whether prescribed norms are not being followed white sanctioning new L.P.G. agency; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THJE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SMAIN-KARANAND) : (a) and (b) While most of LPG connections sanctioned under MP's quota are released promptly by Oil Companies, delay occurs in some connections *due* to incomplete/wrong address, letters returned/undelivered, etc.

(e) Oil Industry has been asked to sub-jnit .a revised LPG Marketing Plan for janciioniog aew LPG agencies, for consideration of Government.

(d) Prescribed norms are being followed.

(e) Does not arise.

Complaints against the L:P:G. Distribution System

2455. SHRI KRJSHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are widespread and varied complaints against the L.P.G. distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of complaints received in this regard and action taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to frame new deterant rules to check the irregularities in this regard, if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. 8HAN-KARANAND) : (a) to (c) There are some complaints of irregularities. Corrective action is taken by oil companies to prevent such acts. At present there are no proposals to frame new rules.

Balance of Pool Account

2456. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the remarks in para 7.3 of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Union Government No. 7 (Commercial) of 1989; and

(b) if so, what is the balance of pool Account as on 31st March, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B SHAN-KARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Balance of Pool Account as on 31st March, 1992 Rs. 5128.18 crores.

Demand for Hike in rates of Royalty on Crude Oil from Crude Oil Production States

2457. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat, Assam and other crude producing State have been demanding a hike in the rates of royalty on crude oil;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, their demands, indicating the extent of increase demanded by them; and

(c) what decision has since been taken thereon ?

, THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The fixation of the rate of royalty on crude oil for the period 1-4-1990 *to* 31-3-1993 is under consideration of Government.

Setting up of Hydro-Carbon Cracker Reactor

2458. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's first hydro-carbon cracker reactor has been commissioned at the Gujarat Refinery in Baroda;

(b) if so, when and the salient features of this reactor and the cost involved in the project;

(c) howfar it is expected to increase the production, per year, of middle distillates like kerosene and diesel; and

(d) whether there is any plan to set-up similar hydro cracker plants at other refineries, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The projects is expected to be commissioned during early 1993 at an approximate cost of Rs. 757.24 Crores. The basic feature of this process is that relatively larger quantities of middle distillates like kerosene, Diesel *etc.* can be obtained as compared to other processess. The refineries being set up at Mangalore, Assam and Karnal will also include hydro cracker processing.

Tender for Multi-Purpose support Vessels (MSVs)

2459. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD . Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has ignored the advice of its own experts in regard to the evaluation of a tender for Multi-purpose Support Vessels (MSVs) as reported in the Times of India of 24th October, 1992;

(b) whether the matter is likely to be reviewed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. After consideration of the recommendations of the regional authorities, ONGC has given an equal opportunity to all bidders to submit best reduced prices.

Setting up of HBJ Pipeline from Bombay High to U. P. (Jagdishpur)

2460. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What is the total cost required tc set up HBJ Pipline from Bombay High to Uttar Pradesh (Jagdishpur);

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this impractical pipeline cost of gas was considerably increased;

(c) what is the total loss per annum due to flaring up of gas; and

(d) whether Government, propose to open a second gas terminal at Usar in Bombay for the utilisation of gas ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Rs. 1750 crores approximately.

(b) There was no increase in the basic price of gas on account of the pipeline; a transportation charge is however levied.

(c) Currently, approximately 4..4 MMSCMD of gas valued at about Rs. 50 lakhs per day is being flared.

(d) Government has approved, in principle, the concept of a gas pipeline from the Western Offshore to the Southern region from a suitable landfall point on the Western Coast.

Setting up of Two Oil Refinery Projects at Sikka Nagar and Jamnagar in Gujarat

2461. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appro'ved a ten thousand crore rupees project submitted by the Gujarat Government for setting up of two oil refineries at Sikka Nagar and Jamnaagr in Gujarat;.

(b) whether it is also a fact that these two refinery projects are likely to be commissioned by two private sector, enterprises, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated production and employment generation in each of these; projects; and

(d) what is the time schedule fixed for commissioning these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND).: . (a) and (b) Two crude oil and one lube refinery'